

Serial No. 10/643,872

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Thorough examination of the application is sincerely appreciated.

According to the Office Action, claims 27 and 28 are allowed. Further according to the Office Action, claims 11 – 15, 17, 19 – 23 and 25 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims in U.S. Patent 6,657,549, commonly owned with the present application. In addition, claims 16, 18, 24 and 26 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims in U.S. Patent 6,657,549 in view of Shober (EP0851239A1).

To conclude the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Office Action, Applicant submits a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c), thereby obviating the rejections. The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. If there are any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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